

**L.J. v. Massinga (Civil Action No. JFM-84-4409)**

**Proposed Postcard Notice**

TO: Parents, foster parents, licensed foster care providers, and kinship caregivers of children in the legal custody of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services ("BCDSS"). **THIS NOTICE DOES NOT PERTAIN TO OR AFFECT ANY INDIVIDUAL CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE ("CINA") CASE IN JUVENILE COURT. THIS NOTICE HAS TO DO WITH A CASE IN FEDERAL COURT TO HELP ALL CHILDREN WHO ARE IN BCDSS CUSTODY.** A Motion to approve a proposed Modified Consent Decree in the *L.J. v. Massinga* lawsuit has been filed in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. The proposed Modified Consent Decree would replace and address the issues in the current Consent Decree entered in 1988 and its Modification entered in 1991. In 2007, Plaintiffs filed a petition for enforcement and contempt and to modify the Consent Decree. The parties have negotiated a new Modified Consent Decree to replace the current Consent Decree. If the Court approves the Modified Consent Decree, the contempt petition would be dismissed. You have the right to make written objections to or comments on the terms of the proposed Modified Consent Decree. **Written comments or objections must be submitted no later than July 27, 2009.** A form for filing comments or objections, along with mailing information, a Notice summarizing the new provisions, and the proposed Modified Consent Decree itself are available on the websites for (i) the Department of Human Resources at [www.dhr.state.md.us](http://www.dhr.state.md.us), (ii) the Baltimore City Department of Social Services at <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/baltocity.htm>, and (iii) the Public Justice Center at [www.publicjustice.org](http://www.publicjustice.org). You also can get a copy of these documents by calling 410-767-7726 and leaving your name and mailing address. **The Court will hold a fairness hearing on August 5, 2009. You do not have to attend the hearing to make comments.** For more information, contact Plaintiffs' attorney, Rhonda Lipkin, [lipkinr@publicjustice.org](mailto:lipkinr@publicjustice.org), 410-625-9409 or Defendants' attorney, c/o Latonya Dulin, [counsel@dhr.state.md.us](mailto:counsel@dhr.state.md.us), 410-767-7726.